

## ABSTRACT

A variable optical attenuator includes a base (12), an attenuating means (11), a first collimator (13) retaining an input fiber (18), a second collimator (14) retaining an output fiber (20) and an optical baffle (116). The attenuating means has four anamorphic prisms (111,112,113,114). The optical baffle is driven to move into light path of the first collimator and is expanded by two anamorphic prisms to block a part of the light beam. Thereafter, the retaining part of the light path passes through other two anamorphic prisms and shrinks to form a parallel light beam received by the second collimator.